

Message Text

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PAGE 01 IAEA V 01250 161538Z

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06 FEAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8663

INFO USERDA HQ WASHDC

USERDA HQ GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 1250

DEPT PASS IO/SCT AND NRC

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, PARM

SUBJ: IAEA SAFEGUARDS INSPECTORS AT SPENT FUEL REPROCESSING
PLANTS

REF: (A) IAEA VIENNA 1012, (B) STATE 28697

1. MISOFF INFORMALLY DISCUSSED WITH INSPECTOR GENERAL
ROMETSCH QUESTION OF POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGY
TRANSFER DURING IAEA SAFEGUARDS INSPECTION OF SPENT FUEL
REPROCESSING PLANT. QUESTION HAS BEARING NOT ONLY ON
U.S. POLICY VIS-A-VIS ACCEPTING IAEA INSPECTORS IN U.S.
CHEMICAL REPROCESSING PLANT, BUT ALSO ON U.S. POLICY
VIS-A-VIS IAEA SENDING INSPECTORS TO REPROCESSING
PLANTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. IT ALSO HAS IMPLICATIONS
FOR SAFEGUARDING ISOTOPE ENRICHMENT PLANTS OR OTHER
FACILITIES INCORPORATING SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY. (FOR
ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND, SEE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SECTION
OF REGIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTER STUDY.)

2. THREE GROUPS OF COUNTRIES WERE DISCUSSED: A)

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PAGE 02 IAEA V 01250 161538Z

COUNTRIES WITH SIGNIFICANT EXISTING REPROCESSING
TECHNOLOGY, E.G., USA, USSR, UK, FRANCE, INDIA,
ITALY, FRG, JAPAN; B) COUNTRIES WITH MODEST EFFORTS
IN AREA, E.G., SPAIN, TAIWAN, NORWAY, ARGENTIN,
ISRAEL, PAKISTAN; C) COUNTRIES WITH LITTLE OR NO
EFFORT IN AREA. AN ADDITIONAL AND SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT
CATEGORY IS COMPRISED OF INDIVIDUALS WHO OBTAINED

AND MAY RETAIN SIGNIFICANT REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY FROM INVOLVEMENT IN MULTINATIONAL EUROCHEMIC OPERATION IN BELGIUM.

3. LIKELIHOOD THAT INSPECTORS FROM CATEGORY "A)" COUNTRIES COULD PICK UP SIGNIFICANT NEW TECHNOLOGY AND THUS CONTRIBUTE TO PROLIFERATION IN THEIR COUNTRIES IS LOW. INSPECTORS FROM "B)" OR "C)" CATEGORY COUNTRIES COULD PICK UP SOME TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY AN INSPECTOR FROM GROUP "B)" WHO WAS WELL BRIEFED ON EFFORTS AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THAT COUNTRY'S OWN REPROCESSING STUDIES PROGRAM. HOWEVER, EVEN IN THESE CASES ROMETSCH DOES NOT RPT NOT FEEL THAT RISK OF SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IS SERIOUS. (IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT HE WAS, FOR MANY YEARS, DIRECTOR OF EUROCHEMIC REPROCESSING PLANT AND THEREFORE HAS A BACKGROUND ON WHICH TO BASE SUCH JUDGMENTS.)

4. POSSIBILITY OF DESIGNATING IAEA INSPECTORS FOR REPROCESSING PLANTS ONLY FROM CATEGORY "A)" COUNTRIES WAS DISCUSSED. ROMETSCH FELT THAT PROBLEMS CAUSED BY SUCH A REQUIREMENT WOULD OUTWEIGH ANY GAIN. HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD SEVERELY LIMIT NUMBER OF INSPECTORS AVAILABLE TO IAEA FOR THAT WORK; IT WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM FEARS OF PLANT OPERATORS WHO CLAIM IAEA INSPECTORS CAN AND WILL STEAL INDUSTRIAL SECRETS; IT WOULD COMPLICATE INSPECTION TEAM EFFICIENCY, LOGISTICS AND ECONOMY; IT WOULD FURTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 IAEA V 01250 161538Z

COMPLICATE ALREADY DIFFICULT PROCESS OF INSPECTOR DESIGNATION (E.G., AGENCY IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO OVERCOME PROBLEM OF SPANISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT IMPOSED BY CERTAIN SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES PRIOR TO ACCEPTING IAEA INSPECTOR DESIGNEES), ETC. (MISSION COMMENT: U.S. OF COURSE RETAINS RIGHT TO SET ITS OWN POLICY AS TO ACCEPTANCE OF DESIGNATION OF IAEA INSPECTORS FOR U.S. AS A WHOLE AND COULD EXCLUDE INSPECTORS FROM "PROBLEM COUNTRIES", E.G., PERHAPS BY A DEVICE SUCH AS ACCEPTING NO INSPECTORS FROM COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT ACCEPT NPT OR FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS.)

5. AS AN ASSOCIATED PROBLEM, ROMETSCH POINTED OUT THAT AGENCY WOULD CLEARLY PREFER TO HAVE SOME EXPERTS IN FIELD OF REPROCESSING ON THEIR SAFEGUARDS STAFF TO DESIGN AGENCY'S DETAILED PROCEDURES FOR INSPECTIONS AND TO LEAD FACILITY ATTACHMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND INSPECTION TEAMS. IF MEMBER STATES WITH SUCH

EXPERTISE DO NOT SUPPLY SUCH PEOPLE OR PROVIDE
EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING FOR AGENCY PERSONNEL WHO DO
NOT PRESENTLY HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF REPROCESSING, HOW CAN
THE AGENCY BE EXPECTED TO EFFECTIVELY SAFEGUARD SUCH
FACILITIES? IN THIS CONNECTION, USG WOULD WANT
TO WEIGH IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING IAEA SAFEGUARDS
EFFECTIVENESS AT SUCH PLANTS THROUGH PROVIDING
INSPECTORS WITH RELEVANT EXPERIENCE TO AGENCY AND
PROVIDING TRAINING IN U.S. FACILITIES FOR IAEA
INSPECTORS FROM SELECTED COUNTRIES. IN RECENT DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH IAEA ON U.S. SAFEGUARDS ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM (REFTEL A) ORIGINALLY PROPOSED U.S. EFFORT ALONG THESE
LINES WAS REDUCED BY U.S. SIDE BELOW THAT WHICH AGENCY HAD
SUGGESTED.

7. MISSION NOTES CONCERN ABOUT THIS GENERAL MATTER
RAISED LAST YEAR, BY SETHNA OF INDIA, E.G., SEE 76
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PAGE 04 IAEA V 01250 161538Z

IAEA VIENNA 4091, 76 BOMBAY 742, 76 STATE 95640,
76 BOMBAY 1248, 76 BOMBAY 1328, PARA 6; 76 BOMBAY 1202;
76 BOMBAY 1277, ETC. REFTTEL B CONCERNING IAEA PLANS
FOR COORDINATED RESEARCH PROGRAM ON SAFEGUARDS FOR
CHEMICAL REPROCESSING ALSO PERTINENT THIS SUBJECT;
MISSION'S RESPONSE THAT MESSAGE FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.TAPE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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